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Addendum

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1. THE BECKET FUND FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

(General Consultative Status granted in 2002)

PART I: Purpose and activities

The Becket Fund is a nonpartisan, interfaith, public interest law firm dedicated to protecting the free expression of all religious traditions. We believe the exercise of conscience is a fundamental human right, and must be preserved for all. The Becket Fund's clients have included Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, and Zoroastrians. The Becket Institute, The Becket Fund's academic arm, moved to Rome in 2005. It was formerly hosted by St. Hughes College, Oxford University, in the United Kingdom. In October 2006, Angela C. Wu replaced Emilie Kao as the Director of International Advocacy and the primary liaison for international affairs. In 2002-2005, there have been no other significant administrative or governance changes at The Becket Fund.

PART II: Activities in the current reporting period

A. Contributions to United Nations bodies (United Nations Commission on Human Rights Interventions and Parallel Sessions)

1. The Becket Fund delivered the following interventions at the 60th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights ("UNCHR") in Geneva, Switzerland:

i. March 31, 2005 statement, Untitled. The Becket Fund addressed emerging trends in Sri Lanka regarding the consideration of anti-conversion legislation. Specifically, the intervention addressed the lack of tolerance prevalent in the Radical Theravada Buddhist political movement and its proposed adoption of anti-conversion legislation as a response to other religions in Sri Lanka.

ii. March 23, 2005 statement, Untitled. The Becket Fund addressed the UNHCR on Turkey's ban of the Muslim headscarf. The Becket Fund sponsored the participation of former Turkish Parliamentarian Merve Kavakci at the session.

iii. April 5, 2005 statement, Untitled. Representing over 3,000 Muslims and the Imam of the Juma Mosque (Baku, Azerbaijan), The Becket Fund advocated against the **repression of the Juma Mosque in Azerbaijan**.

iv. April 8, 2005 statement, Untitled. The Becket Fund addressed issues affecting governments around the world regarding **the right of the child to express religious belief in the classroom**. The Becket Fund commented on England's Court of Appeal decision that a high-school student, Shabina Begum, may express her religious belief by wearing a jilbab, a full-length Muslim gown to class. It contrasted that situation to France's decision, in the fall of 2004, to implement a prohibition on religious clothing that forbids children from symbols such as the turban, the yarmulke, the cross, and the headscarf to school.

v. April 14, 2005 statement, Untitled. The Becket Fund discussed Chapter 16, section 8 of **Sweden's criminal code, which prohibits the expression of "disrespect" towards favored minority groups**. The law carries a penalty of up to four years of imprisonment. It requires no evidence of incitement to violence and lacks any objective standard for identifying disrespect. The Becket Fund argued that its overbreadth would encourage censorship that will foster intolerance towards disfavored minorities.

2. During the 61st Commission Session in Geneva, Switzerland, The Becket Fund hosted a **parallel session** called "Stripping the Body of Belief: The Human Right to Wear Religious Dress" on March 24, 2005 at the Palais des Nations. The panel featured Muslim laywomen, including a former Turkish Parliament Member, prosecuted by the governments of France, Turkey, and Belgium for wearing religious dress and symbols.

3. At the United Nations **Working Group on Arbitrary Detention**, The Becket Fund filed several **petitions** on an anonymous basis on behalf of clients who were imprisoned for their religious beliefs. One of these clients' detention was declared arbitrary, and the client was subsequently released from prison. Two other petitions are currently pending.

B. Activities undertaken in support of internationally agreed human rights goals

1. International litigation

i. At the European Court of Human Rights in 2004, The Becket Fund formally filed an application with the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in the case of "Juma Mosque," regarding an Islamic mosque that was expelled in the city of Baku in Azerbaijan.

ii. In the Swedish domestic courts, The Becket Fund worked in 2005 with local counsel to litigate a case on behalf of a pastor who was convicted on criminal charges after preaching a sermon that cited Biblical texts on homosexuality. The Becket Fund's brief to the court explained that Pastor Green's sermon fell squarely within Article 18's protection of the "freedom . . . in community with others . . . to manifest his religion or belief in . . . teaching." His conviction has since been vacated by Sweden's highest court.

iii. With the Sri Lankan government, The Becket Fund has advocated and provided legal arguments regarding its severe anti-conversion laws.

Related activities that The Becket Fund hosted and conducted include:

• a fact-finding mission July 5-9, 2004 in which lawyers from The Becket Fund met with NGO representatives, constitutional lawyers, a member of the Sri Lankan Parliament, and US and British Embassy staff in Sri Lanka. The Becket Fund also documented acts of violence against religious minorities.

• a roundtable discussion titled "Religious Freedom in Sri Lanka" on November 19, 2004 at the Sri Lankan Embassy in Washington, DC, USA. Panelists included two former United States Ambassadors, a Professor from University of Virginia, and representatives from the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy, the United States Department of State, the Southern Baptist Convention, and the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. In attendance was the Ambassador from Sri Lanka to the United States.

• a congressional briefing titled "Congressional Briefing on Religious Freedom in Sri Lanka" on how religious persecution in Sri Lanka was affecting tsunami relief efforts. Among those in attendance were ten United States Senators and Representatives, and representatives from Amnesty International, the United States Department of State, and the United Nations.

2. Public education

The Becket Fund created a traveling **exhibit** titled "Body of Belief" featuring a collection of banned religious clothing and other distinctive symbols, including the headscarf, yarmulke, cross, Sikh turban, and tie. The exhibit was inaugurated in Geneva at the 61st session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission on March 23, 2005 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva, Switzerland. It was also shown in New York, USA on May 5, 2005 and Washington, DC, USA, at The Capitol Building from October 24-28, 2005. The interactive, multimedia exhibit seeks to engage individuals by including changing artifacts and inviting individuals who have been terminated from their places of work and discriminated against, punished, and ostracized for wearing religious symbols.

3. Government relations

The Becket Fund attends and monitors closely the activities of the United States Department of State in regard to the UNHRC, contributes actively and monitors the annual release of the Department of State's human rights report and international religious freedom reports; works closely with the United States Committee on International Religious Freedom, and works with the United States Congressional Human Rights Caucus. The Becket Fund attended meetings in Washington, D.C. with representatives from these bodies in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005.

4. Academia

i. In March 21-22, 2002, The Becket Fund hosted a conference entitled "Truth and Freedom," in Washington, D.C., the fourth in a series of international conferences on the theme of religious liberty. The conference was designed to foster dialogue among Muslims, Jews and Christians on the possibility of a common understanding of religious liberty, a particularly timely and urgent topic since the events of September 11.

ii. In December 5-10, 2005, The Becket Fund co-hosted a conference with its academic institute in Rome, Italy. The conference, entitled "Religious Liberty and Relativism," produced a collection

of papers of the same title exploring the topic of religious liberty and emerging international secularist trends.

iii. Representatives from the Becket Fund have spoken at dozens of conferences and participated in roundtable discussions and consultations with universities and NGOs in several countries, and published widely on religious freedom issues, including in Jerusalem, Jordan, the United States, Rome, and South Asia. For example, in 2003, Stephen G. Post published Human Nature and the Freedom of Public Religious Expression, a book he researched and wrote during his time as a visiting scholar at the Becket Institute. And in December 12, 2005, the *Wall Street Journal*(Asian Print Edition) printed an opinion piece titled "Fearing Christmas in Sri Lanka" by a Becket Fund attorney Roger Severino on religious liberty in Sri Lanka.

2. CARE (CHRISTIAN ACTION, RESEARCH & EDUCATION)

Special Consultative Status granted in 2002

Part I: Introduction

Aims and Purposes of the Organization: Social Service and Counselling Provision at the local level in the UK; social policy research & lobbying (Family & Child Policy, Relationship Development, Education, Bioethics etc.), public education and communication in the above fields.

Geographical distribution of members is predominantly in the United Kingdom with smaller numbers spread throughout the countries of Europe and globally.

Part II: Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

During the reporting period, 2002-2005, the CARE (Christian Action, Research & Education) representatives attended and lobbied for the following meetings:

1. First Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on an International Convention against the Reproductive Cloning of Human Beings, 25th February – 1st March 2002, New York.

2. Commission on the Status of Women (46th Session), 4th - 15th March 2002, New York.

3. The World Summit on Sustainable Development, 26th August – 4th September 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa.

4. Working Group of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, Ad Hoc Committee on an International Convention against the Reproductive Cloning of Human Beings, 23rd – 27th September 2002, New York.

5. Commission on the Status of Women (47th Session), 3rd – 14th March 2003, New York.

6. Working Group of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on an International Convention against the Reproductive Cloning of Human Beings, 29th September – 3rd October 2003, New York.

7. The Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly discussions on an International Convention against Reproductive Cloning of Human Beings, 20th and 21st October 2003, New York.

8. Working Group for the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, 5th–16th January 2004, New York.

9. Commission on the Status of Women (48th Session), 1st – 12th March 2004, New York.

10. United Nations Commission on Human Rights (60th Session), 15th March – 23rd April 2004, Geneva, Switzerland.

11. The Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (agenda item entitled "international convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings"), 20th and 21st October 2004, New York.

12. The Working Group of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on the proposed United Nations Human Cloning Convention, 14th, 15th and 18th February 2005, New York.

13. Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. 25th January-4th February 2005. New York.

14. Review and Appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcome Document of the Twenty-Third Special Session of the General Assembly, 28th February – 8th March 2005, New York.

15. United Nations Commission on Human Rights (61st Session), 14th March – 22nd April 2005, Geneva, Switzerland.

16. Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, 1st – 12th August 2005, New York.

3. MARYKNOLL FATHERS AND BROTHERS

Special consultative status granted 1999

Introduction: Aims and purposes of the organization

Since the last Quadrennial Report, the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers' Non Governmental Organization (NGO), as the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America (CFMSA), has continued its Mission to respond worldwide to the needs of people experiencing increasing poverty, violence, and both human and ecological degradation. Along with previous areas of collaboration with civil society, Church and other institutions new emphasis and new areas include: Children and youth, but now with *street gang members, rescue & rehabilitation, & unemployed...* Protection & assistance of increasing *migrants, and internally displaced...* A new emphasis on E*cology & Climate Change* with *awareness/education, participation in local & international efforts...* A new health threat of HIV/AIDS *with care & approach through community & clinics...*

Increased human rights efforts with *immigrant & Indigenous, youth & elders...* In particular efforts with *destruction & loss of ancestral lands, displacement, self-sufficiency of* Indigenous peoples.

Another area of increasing attention: peace and reconciliation *efforts and training.* New issues of involvement in sustainable development is promoting local *ecological agricultural practices.*

Membership and work

The Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, has at present, 490 members, a decrease of almost 90 members. While one area in Africa, another in the Middle East and 2 in Latin America are now closed, the members continue to serve in the previous countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America Europe and North America. In every Region, their work is enabled by Maryknoll Associates, Affiliate Volunteers, civil society and Non Governmental Organizations. Everywhere, there has been a conscious effort to assist locally, in fulfilling the *United Nations' Millennium Development Goals* as is spelled out in the paragraph above.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

The Maryknoll Fathers & Bothers, as a Non Governmental Organization continues to work closely with the Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic NGO. Together they closely following the ECOSOC yearly agendas, and, as members of the Conference on Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO) and of Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS). They have maintained membership in the NGO Committee on Disarmament, the Ecumenical Working Group for the United Nations, the North American Civil Society for United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) & the NGO Committee on Social Development, the Committee on Financing for

Development, Africa Working Group, Earth Values Caucus, Indigenous Working Groups, the Women's Caucus, the Working Group on HIV/AIDS. In particular the Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers have brought representatives from southern regions to participate in the following UN conferences, meetings and programs and have co-sponsored Side Events at these Conferences:

Commission on Sustainable Development

2002: Second Summit Preparatory Committee (**PREPCOM** 2) 28 January-8 February 2002 New York: [Presented a Side Event: *Sustainable Indigenous Agricultural Practices*]

2003: CSD 11 + April 28-May 9: Side event – UN Headquarters, New York: [Forum: Side-Event: "*Promoting an Integrated Approach to Rural Development...*" Speaker: Mr. Tom Bamat]

[Side Event: Maryknoll Aids Task Force: "*Sustainable Development & HIV/AIDS*"]

2004: CSD 12 + April 14-30: UN Headquarters, New York [With Earth Values Caucus presented a day long event: *Water as a Global Common*]

2005: CSD 13: April 11-22, UN Headquarters, New York: [With Earth Values Caucus-Documentary on Water, a Caucus Meeting Presentation 18/4/05]

Commission on the Status of Women: *in cooperation with the Maryknoll Sisters NGO*

2003: 47th Session March 3-14, 2003: UN Headquarters, New York, USA: [Side Event: March 12

Maryknoll Aids Force- Film Screening: *Coming to Say Goodbye*]

2004: 48th Session March 1-12, 2004: UN Headquarters, New York, USA [Role of Men & Boys: Sponsored a Young Man from El Salvador to share his experience in El Salvador.]

2005: 49th Session February 28-March 11, 2005: UN Headquarters, New York USA: [Sponsored two Women from Brazil-Panel on: *Effects of Racism on Women* - March 2]

Permanent Forum on Indigenous-(UNFPII): *In solidarity with Indigenous Peoples*

2003: 2nd Session, 11-23 May 2003: United Nations Headquarters, New York

2004: 3rd Session, May 10-21, 2004: UN Headquarters, New York, USA: [With UNICEF-Working Group & Maryknoll Sisters NGO sponsored 2 Indigenous Women (1 from Bolivia / 1 from Mexico & 1 Child who presented her statement to the Forum: O*n the Needs and Rights of Indigenous Girls*]

Conferences on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)

2004: June 14-25, UN Headquarters, New York with International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) at Open Ended Working Group Session on Tracing Illicit: [Statement on *Arming Street Gangs-El Salvador Case* presented under auspices of International Action Network on Small Arms]... 2005: May 2-27 Review Conference on the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at UN New York: Cooperated with the Mayors for Peace Delegation.

Conferences on Financing for Development

2002: International Conference on Financing for Development-Monterey Mexico (Participated in Roundtables) 2003: UN High Level General Assembly Dialogue on Financing for Development and Related Public Hearings (FfD) October 28-30, at the United Nations Headquarters, N.Y. USA

2004: April 26, at the United Nation Headquarters, New York: ECOSOC/Bretton Woods Institutions (BWI) and World Trade Organization (WTO) High level Roundtables (FfD) 2005: May 18-19, UN Headquarters, N.Y: 2nd UN High Level GA Dialogue on Financing for Development (FFD) Multi-Stakeholder Consultations on Systemic Issues [with Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility]

Cooperation with UN Bodies & Specialized Agencies / Other relevant activities
United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP)

2004: Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF), March 2004, Jeju, S. Korea Global Civil Society Forum (participated as part of the Vatican Delegation)

Framework Convention for Climate Change – (FCCC)

2003: FCCC: Conference of the Parties (COP 9) in Milan, Italy / 2004: FCCC-Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) – Bonn, Germany / 2005: Conference of the Parties (COP 11) in Montreal Canada November 28 December 9.

Informal High Level Hearings of the GA with Non-Governmental & Civil Society Organizations and the Private sector. 2005 23-24 June: …Sponsored a woman from Guatemala as spokesperson.

United Nations' Children's Fund (UNICEF): In 2004, a member assisted in writing the section on the Role of Religions for the booklet UNICEF was preparing on the trafficking of children.

UN Habitat Office in Nairobi, there was an interaction with Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers NGO regarding upgrading of Kibera slum in Nairobi 2004-2005

Written/Oral Statements: Our files have been lost, but statements were submitted from 2002 to 2005 on: prevention of trafficking of women; and in Geneva at the High Commission on Human

Rights on behalf of Children's Rights in the Context of War, and another urging a Total Ban on the Death Penalty, other statements made are recorded in Commission reports, above.

Maryknoll publications - Remain the same as Previous Report, but with additions/emphasis:

New: Maryknoll Videos: *Coming to Say Goodbye* - HIV/AIDS in Africa

New: Maryknoll Web Sites: www.maryknollogc.org

Of Note: Work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies are often highlighted in: *Maryknoll Magazine* - circulation of 400,000 / Spanish Edition - circulation of 60,000...World Watch section / Radio Program: Voices of Our World heard on 100 radio stations / NewsNotes / and more than six Special Papers and Publications on UN issues.

4. UNITED NATIONS WATCH

Special Consultative Status granted in 2002

Part I

With the aims of promoting the principles of the UN Charter, furthering knowledge of the UN's activities, and advancing human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, United Nations Watch (UN Watch) follows, disseminates information about, and where appropriate offers constructive comment on, the work of various UN bodies. UN Watch attends and participates in UN meetings, liaises with other NGOs in preparation for UN events, and produces a regular newsletter, and sometimes other writings, on UN-related news and events. UN Watch also fosters understanding of the UN system through its student seminars and fellowship and internship programs.

UN Watch currently has 110 members, geographically distributed as follows: 56% from Europe, 38% from North America, and 4% from Oceania. UN Watch's newsletter on UN issues now reaches nearly 5,000 subscribers around the world.

UN Watch continues to be funded by private individual donations and charitable foundations.

Part II

During the reporting period, UN Watch participated actively in the following UN sessions:

- **Commission on Human Rights (CHR), 59th Session, 17 March- 25 April 2003, Geneva**

- Oral Statements : The Right to Self-Determination, 24 March

- Oral Statements : Human Rights Violations in Occupied Arab Territories, 31 March

- Oral statements :Violations of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, 2 April

- **CHR, 60th Session, 15 March-23 April 2004, Geneva**

- Oral Statement, Human Rights Violations in Occupied Arab Territories, March 24

- Oral Statement, Civil and Political Rights, April 2

- **CHR, 61st Session, 14 March-22 April, Geneva**

    - Oral statements:

- *Right of Peoples to Self Determination*, March 18, 2005

- *Human Rights Violations in Occupied Arab Territories*, March 23, 2005 (Joint statement with NGOs among others Freedom House, Droits et Démocratie/Rights & Democracy, Association for Democratic Initiatives, Liberal International, World Information Transfer, and International Association of Educators for World Peace)

- Civil and Political Rights, April 4, 2005

- Rights of the Child, April 11, 2005

- Effective Functioning of Human Rights Mechanisms, April 19, 2005

    - Written Statements: Right of Peoples to Self Determination, Violations of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Effective Functioning of Human Rights Mechanisms , Civil and Political Rights

    - UN Watch side events

- Panel Discussion on the United Nations and the Middle East, March 24, 2005. Panelists: Senator Rudy Boschwitz, Head of U.S. Delegation; Per Ahlmark, author, columnist and former Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden; Ilka Schröder, former Member of the European Parliament; Hillel Neuer, Executive Director, UN Watch. Moderator: Ambassador Alfred E. Moses, Chair, UN Watch.

- Panel Discussion on Proposals to Reform the Commission on Human Rights, April 4, 2005. Panelists: Ambassador Mary Whelan of Ireland; Deirdre Kent, CHR Rapporteur and Counsellor, Mission of Canada; Professor Stephen Toope, Chair of Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances; Asma Jahangir, Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief. Moderator: Hillel Neuer, UN Watch Executive Director

- **CHR, 61st Session, Informal Consultations on the implementation of the Secretary-General's proposed reforms, 20 June 2005, Geneva**
    - Oral Statements :

- Support for the Secretary-General's Proposed Human Rights Council, June 20, 2005

- Civil Society Proposal for the Human Rights Council, November 22, 2005 (Joint Statement with NGOs among others, Arab Organization for Human Rights, Center for Development of International Law, International Council of Women, International Institute of Humanitarian Law, International League for Human Rights)

- **Sub-Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, 56th Session, 26 July-13 August 2004, Geneva**

Oral Statements: *Women and Human Rights*, August 6, 2004; *Administration of Justice, Democracy and the Rule of Law*, August 10, 2004

- **Sub-Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, 57th Session, 25 July-12 August 2005, Geneva**
    - Oral Statement, *Administration of Justice, Rule of Law and Democracy*, August 2, 2005 (Joint Statement with NGOs among others African Services Committee, Associated Country Women of the World, International Federation of Social Workers, International Council of Jewish Women, Volunteerism Organization For Women Education and Development, and World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations)
    - Written Statement, Prevention of Discrimination, Organization of Work

- **Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 66th Session, 21st February-11 March 2005, Geneva:**

Oral Statement, Thematic Discussion on Prevention of Genocide, February 28, 2005

- **Working Group on Minorities, 11th Session, 30 May-3 June 2005, Geneva**

Oral statement, Violations of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Minorities, June 1, 2005

UN Watch also organized periodic, one- or two-day seminars at which American and European university students learned about the UN system from UN, member-state, and NGO representatives. For example, on November 11, 2005, a UN Watch seminar in Geneva for students from Columbia University's program in Paris featured a tour of the Palais des Nations, a visit to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum, attendance at a meeting of the Committee

Against Torture (CAT), and briefings from the CAT's Vice Chair, as well as from human rights and humanitarian officers from the European Commission and the British Mission. In addition, UN Watch's fellowship and intern programs have allowed a number of young people from around the world to spend several months to one year in Geneva working closely with the UN.

UN Watch also met with UN officials, as well as with member-state representatives. These meetings provided an opportunity for friendly dialogue on issues within UN Watch's areas of activity.

In December 2005, UN Watch was granted Associate Status by the UN Department of Public Information.

5. WOMEN'S INTERCULTURAL NETWORK -WIN

Special Consultative Status granted in 1998

The Women's Intercultural Network -WIN - was incorporated in 1994 to **'connect women and girls across cultures for collective action on common concerns.'** Our vision continues to be that of ensuring that the voices of all women and girls are heard in public forums and to provide opportunities and venues for the voices of women who have not been able to speak for themselves.

Ten years ago, 1995, along with 40,000 other delegates who attended the 4th United Nations Conference on Women, WIN took up the challenge to bring the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) to the grassroots of California for implementation - and agreed to "keep on moving forward" – our charge from the Beijing Conference. We formed the California Women's Agenda – CAWA, to carry out WIN's mission and the mission of the BPFA – the global women's agenda. Now a million California girls and women are connecting on the ground and on the internet for collective action on the BPFA. We continue to use the 12 critical concerns from the BPFA as our framework for advocacy on women's issues – locally, statewide in California, nationally through US Women Connect and globally with our "Circles" in Uganda, Afghanistan and Japan.

CAWA has been honing its organizing and advocacy model since 2002 with global leadership exchanges in Uganda, Japan and Afghanistan. We have learned and exchanged best practices and worst barriers to empowering women. We initiated *CALLING THE CIRCLE OF WOMEN FOR FULL PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRACY* and took the *CIRCLE* to Africa and Central Asia - Uganda and Afghanistan. We have brought Ugandan and Afghan women leaders to CAWA networks throughout California in 2002, 2003, 2004 and in August, 2005, we did full *CIRCLE* when two young women from Uganda, serving as WIN Board members, returned to California. They met with CAWA networks in Los Angeles, San Diego, Ventura, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Marin, Napa, and San Francisco counties. They spoke about our groundbreaking partnership project in Uganda that has granted acres of land to 100 homeless women who suffer from domestic abuse and HIV/AIDS. We helped them raise $17,600 to purchase the land for homeless Ugandan women. Those eight CAWA county coalitions, along with eight other CAWA county

partners, are now mobilizing around their local county priorities in California for action plans that would give grassroots input into a dynamic California Women's Agenda, a U.S. Women's Agenda and the United Nations women's global agenda (BPFA) that we take to the United Nations Commission on Women. We have sent delegates to the United Nations CSW meetings – including Beijing+5 and Beijing+10 meetings, and were significantly involved in March, 2005 in reaffirming the Beijing Platform for Action, by lobbying our United States government representatives who were hesitant in supporting the reaffirmation. One of our key volunteers is the national chair of the National Committee on the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Many of our members serve on United Nations committees.

Launched as a project of the Women's Intercultural Network (WIN) specifically to monitor and implement the United Nations Beijing Platform for Action, The California Women's Agenda (CAWA) has since 2002:

• expanded our state network to more than 600 organizations

• developed a state task force for each of the issues identified in the Beijing Plan as crucial to improving the status of women.

• developed a county structure in seventeen areas of the state, guided by coordinators who mobilize local organizations in action networks on local issues

• built an on-line electronic information and action alert system for rapid communication to the task forces, county coordinators and key CAWA activists who then forward the material to their personal and constituent networks

• re-designed and updated our web site to make it an effective tool for accessing resources and facilitating interactive discussions and strategic planning on key issues, including Calling the Circles of women from the United States, Afghanistan, Uganda and Japan. Our web site now reaches out across the world to a huge and diverse audience of women in many countries – all working on the United Nations Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW.

• created a Legislators' Council that includes 41 State level and national level California women elected officials who have indicated their support of the principles of the Beijing Platform for Action

- hosted women leaders from Afghanistan, Uganda and Japan in leadership exchanges with CAWA activists and supporters in various communities throughout the state

• shared our organizing model and participated with activists in 9 other states (in 10 Federal regional hubs) to form United States Women Connect as an anchor for a United States women's agenda and national version of women's groups linked in a global network for women's rights.

CAWA's success has been possible, in spite of limited financial resources, because we operate largely as a "virtual network" relying on old and new technologies to expand our reach. E-groups and telephone conference calls have helped maintain contact among the dedicated volunteers who have accepted the responsibility for the task forces, the action alerts and the local organizing. Many also serve as CAWA representatives to coalitions that have formed to address racism, anti-immigrant policies, the plight of people with disabilities and the rights of indigenous people.

THE BEIJING +5 REPORT AND PLAN OF ACTION: IN PRINT AND ON-LINE

Two hundred California activists convened at SBC Media Center in San Francisco on December 3rd and 4th, 2004, set priority issues and recommended strategies for the California Women's Action Agenda 2005 and beyond. They applauded legislators who spoke passionately about their districts and neighborhoods and heard panelists who brought expertise, experience and exciting new ideas to the table.

Participants agreed that health; education and economic equity are still priority issues for women and girls in California, that the full implementation of CEDAW in our cities and counties, the election of progressive women to local, state and federal offices and the support of progressive men can move the agenda forward. Following Health, Economic, Education and CEDAW panels, they drafted Policy Papers on-line for county activities and actions.

Parallel to base building in California, WIN co-founded US Women Connect which served as the anchor for monitoring US implementation of the BPFA, Beijing+5 in 2000. USWC was reconstituted in March, 2004 as a national action network of 10 states in 10 Federal regions that is growing to 50 State networks, on the ground and on the Internet, amplifying United States women's voices on critical issues of public policy. USWC will serve as the anchor for a United States Women's Agenda that will connect all 50 United States to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women's Beijing+15 report in 2010.

WIN and CAWA celebrated ten years of connecting women across cultures for collective action on local and global Platforms for Action in 2005. We thanked and honored the many women who had kept us moving forward locally and globally since 1995. We gave the *CIRCLE OF COURAGE AWARDS* to the tip of the iceberg of fearless, courageous, and progressive California. On accepting her award in December, 2004 Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, San Francisco, California, said, "*Setting an Action Agenda is essential. The status of women and the well being of our children and families are in great danger. We cannot afford to waste one minute in implementing an agenda that will protect and enhance the status of and opportunities for women and girls throughout California, the United States and the World.*" We accept Congresswoman Pelosi's challenge and intend to keep on moving forward locally, state wide, nationally and globally.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the United Nations to bring Equality, Development and Peace to all women and girls – our families, our countries and our world.